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STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June 1949.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Shaftesbury Borough Council.

Madam & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1948.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935.

I am indebted to Mr. Teasdale, your Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation and help during the year and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss L. Davidge, for her efficient services throughout the year.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1 9 4 8.

A. Area - 1078 acres.
Rateable Value - £19,707
Production of a penny rate - £83. 11. 3.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) 3360.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.		Comparative figures for (a) North Dorset	(b) England & Wales.
Total (49)	33	16	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 14.6	17.7	17.9
Legitimate	31	16			
Illegitimate	2	-			

STILLBIRTHS.

Total (3)	-	3	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 0.8	0.4	0.42

DEATHS.

Total (46)	24	22	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 13.7	11.5	10.8
Deaths in infants under one year	Nil.	Nil.		24.6	34.0

Deaths from Maternal Causes - Nil
" " diarrhoea in infants - Nil
" " road traffic accidents - 2
" " other violent causes - Nil

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

The National Health Service Act came into operation in July when the provision of hospital and specialist medical services became the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and the private medical practitioner service became the responsibility of the Local Executive Councils.

The County Council as local health authority under the Act became responsible for ambulance arrangements in the district, and for home nursing facilities. The domiciliary midwifery, child welfare and the school medical services remained the responsibility of the Dorset County Council as local health authority.

The laboratory services and the tuberculosis and venereal disease services previously provided by the Dorset County Council became the responsibility of the Ministry of Health through their hospital service.

The change over of functions and responsibilities in so far as the district is concerned appears to have taken place smoothly and without dislocation.

No complaints have been made to me suggesting that patients have not received under the Act any necessary medical treatment available to them before the Act became operative and my general impression is that the Act has proved beneficial to the community in this district.

C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

Sanitary Inspector - part time

Bernard Shaw, M.S.I.A., Certificate of R.S.I., Joint Board and San. Insp. Exam. Inspector of Meat & Other Foods. San. Insp. Assoc. for Environmental Hygiene. Resigned - 8.5.48.

William N. Teasdale, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., Cert. S.I.B. Certificate of R.S.I. and San. Insp. Exam. Joint Board, Inspector of Meat & Other Foods. Appointed 1.6.48.

Clerical Staff - One whole time clerk, previously employed, ceased duty in July, since when the appointment has been vacant.

I must again remind you that approximately only one third of the Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor's time is devoted to his statutory duties as Sanitary Inspector, two thirds of his time being given to other duties. Until at least two thirds of his time is devoted to his statutory duties, the sanitary condition of the town cannot be improved and much of your statutory duties as a health and housing authority will remain not done.

2. WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no material change with regard to the town's water supply from previous years. The supply comes from a deep bore and is automatically chlorinated. 16 samples of untreated water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and all proved to be satisfactory.

1,040 houses (having an approximate population of 3,300) are served with a public piped supply into the house. 57 houses (having an approximate population of 200) are served by outside standpipes from the public supply.

New works carried out during the year include mains extension to serve the Grosvenor Road housing site and to the Hawkesdene estate.

52 connections were provided during the year for domestic use. None for agricultural use and 4 for other purposes.

3. SEWERAGE & SANITATION.

No further progress has been made with regard to the Council's proposed new sewerage scheme already submitted to the Ministry for approval. A serious nuisance was complained of with regard to present sewage disposal arrangements at Lnmore Green. A temporary works are to be undertaken in an effort to overcome this nuisance until the major scheme is put into operation.

New works during the year include the laying of sewers to serve the Grosvenor Road housing scheme and to complete the drainage and sewerage arrangements at the Christy's Lane housing estate.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. A weekly collection of house refuse is carried out by the Council which is disposed of by controlled tipping.

(b) Salvage. A separate collection of salvage is carried out during the year. The quantity of salvage collected was -

Waste Paper	-	40 tons 1 cwt.
Rags, bagging etc.	-	1 ton. 9 cwt.
Bones		7 cwt.

5. RIVERS & STREAMS POLLUTION.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

6. SHOPS ACT.

No. of inspections carried out.....6
No. of defects found.....1
No. of notices served.....1
No. of notices complied with.....1

This record is better than that reported in the previous year when no inspections were carried out. It is clearly apparent, however, that 6 inspections is inadequate to meet the requirements in the town.

7. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	No. of premises on register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	4	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	19	7	-
Total -	23	8	-

	No. of cases in which defects were - Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.
Sanitary Conveniences - unsuitable or defective	1	1	-
Total -	1	1	-

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

Continued use was made of the public swimming bath provided by the Council Purification of continually flowing water was maintained by slow sand filtration and hand chlorination together with regular testing of the water for free chlorine. Periodic samples submitted for bacteriological examination all gave satisfactory results. Although this method has proved satisfactory I still hope that when circumstances permit, the present method of treatment and purification of this swimming bath water will be abandoned in favour of automatic filtration and chlorination.

10. CAMPING SITES.

There are no licensed camping sites in the district.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The only action called for during the year was infestation by cockroaches of a school kitchen. The infestation was successfully overcome by the use of D.D.T. powder.

12. RATS & MICE.

Rodent control in the borough is carried out under arrangements made by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee. In August the Council decided not to bear, in future, the cost of the control of private premises such to be borne by the occupier. This, in my view, will result in fewer cases of rat infestations being reported and will result in less efficient control in the future than has been experienced in the past.

13. RAG FLOCK ACTS 1911 - 1922.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

14. SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

No routine sanitary inspections were carried out of schools or school canteens in the borough by your Sanitary Inspector, but such inspections were made by the County Sanitary Officer. .

15. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

(1) (a) No. of houses inspected during the year.....49
(b) No. of inspections made.....130

(2) (1) No. of informal notices served..... 30
(2) No. of informal notices complied with..... 18
(3) No. of statutory notices served.....Nil
(4) No. of statutory notices complied with.....Nil.

(3) (1) No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936.....Nil
(2) Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -
(a) Demolition Orders made.....Nil
(b) Undertaking accepted for -
(i) Closure.....Nil
(ii) re-conditioning.....Nil
(c) Other action.....Nil

(4) Overcrowding. As no routine house to house inspections were carried out during the year I am not in a position to say that no cases of statutory overcrowding exist, but can only say that no cases of statutory overcrowding came to notice during the year.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

I have to remind you that there is a statutory requirement under Section 5 of the Housing Act 1936 and the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925, for you to arrange for regular inspection of the dwelling houses in your district and I have to draw your attention to the fact that such inspections have not been carried out in your borough during the past 10 years! The inspections which have been made and reported to you have almost invariably been as a result of a complaint received from the occupier or other person with regard to the condition of the house. It is not possible, without having a complete picture of the housing conditions in the town, to plan adequately for the future or to take advantage of such facilities as the newly proposed Housing Bill may offer in connection with bringing sub-standard property up to present day requirements. It is my hope that serious consideration will be given to the statutory requirements so that the opportunity will not be lost to improve the housing conditions of the borough.

(5) Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

	~~Temporary~~ Prefab.	Traditional type.	Others.
(a) During 1948	30	16	8
(b) Post-war	30	30	8

No. of houses held under requisition at the end of the year.....9
No. of houses on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made, occupied under licence at the end of the year.....Nil
No. of families re-housed during the year by the local authority....55

During the year 3 recommendations for the granting of priority on medical grounds in connection with their application for a Council house, were made by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the conditions under which 6 applicants were living, following inspections carried out by him.

16. INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk -

(a) Milk & Dairies Order 1926.

No. of farms in the district registered for milk production.....13
No. of farms producing designated milk -
(a) T.T.....Nil
(b) Accredited.....3
No. of farms producing non-designated milk.....10
No. registered dairymen (cowkeepers and milk sellers).....15
No. registered as wholesale.....11
" " " retailers.....2
" " " wholesale and retailers.....2

(b) Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

No. of inspections made during the year.....18
No. of cases in which contravention of the regulations were found.1
No. of prosecutions undertaken.....Nil

(c) Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936 - 1941.

No. of licences granted during the year -

Tuberculin Tested	-	Dealers.....	Nil
		Supplementary.....	Nil
Pasteurised	-	Dealers.....	Nil
		Supplementary.....	Nil

(d) Samples.

No. of samples taken and submitted for examination during the year -

Tuberculin Tested.....Nil
Accredited.....Nil
Pasteurised.....Nil
Ungraded..... 1

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938.....28
No. of such premises inspected during the year.....17
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938..11
No. of such premises registered in respect to -

(a) Ice Cream.....5
(b) Sausages & prepared meats...Nil

No. of such premises inspected during the year.....11
No. of samples of ice cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue test..... 4

Results;-	No.
Grade 1.....	Nil
Grade 2.....	Nil
Grade 3.....	Nil
Grade 4.....	4

Meat Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses - Nil.

(b) Butchers and other shops -

Quantities condemned -

3 Calves Heads	11 lbs.
Rump& top side of beef	110 lbs.
	121 lbs.
Bacon	14 lbs.
Wet Fish	35 lbs.
Total -	170 lbs.

Other Food -

Tinned Milk	66½ lbs.
Tinned Meat	37 lbs.
Tinned Fish	17 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	28 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	22¾ lbs.
Tinned Soups	6½ lbs.
Flour and cereals	13½ lbs.
Fruit	50 lbs.
Total -	231½ lbs.

Food Poisoning.

A localised outbreak of gastro enteritis, probably food poisoning, occurred at the Public Assistance Institution at Shaftesbury, involving 39 persons. Clinically the cases were mild and although complete investigation was carried out, the nature and source of the infection was not established.

17. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out.....4
No. of disinfections carried out.....2

18. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings).....663
" " Informal notices served.....42
" " Informal notices complied with.....24
" " Statutory notices served.....Nil
" " Statutory notices complied with.....Nil
No. of prosecutions.....Nil

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Incidence.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Scarlet fever	8	3	-

Tuberculosis.

New Cases Notified		Deaths	
Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
5	-	2	-

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.